

Prospect Street Bridge  
Prospect Street, spanning Chuctanunda  
Creek  
Amsterdam  
Montgomery County  
New York

HAER No. NY-176

HAER  
NY,  
29-AMST,  
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

PROSPECT STREET BRIDGE

HAER No. NY-176

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Location: Prospect Street spanning the Chuctanunda Creek within the former S. Sanford & Sons Carpet Mill factory complex, approximately 350 feet northwest of Route 67 and northeast of City Hall, City of Amsterdam, Montgomery County, New York

UTM: N 4754280

E 566330

New York State Quad: Amsterdam

Date of  
Construction:

Unknown. Estimated from lithograph, photographs, and city records to be pre-1875. Earliest reference to a crossing at this location found on an 1852 map. A lithograph printed by G. W. Lewis (452 Broadway, Albany, New York) in 1875 depicts what appears to be a twin stone arch bridge at the site of the Prospect Street crossing of Chuctanunda Creek. Earliest extant city records date from 1889 and between this date and 1910 there is no reference to construction at this site. References to the "replanking" of the Prospect Street bridge appear in the City Engineer's report of 1893.

Style: Stone arch.

Present owner: City of Amsterdam, New York.

Present Use  
and Condition:

The bridge is used for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It is in fair condition with loss of mortar on upstream (north) side due to scouring action during high waters; this condition is not evident on the south side of the bridge. Many stones on the north side and underneath the bridge are loose while some have completely fallen out. The center pier, stone cutwater is in an advanced state of deterioration with little or none of its original shape remaining.

Significance: Last surviving stone arch bridge in Amsterdam. Until 1909, all of the bridges located in Amsterdam were of this type.

Materials of  
Construction:

A filled spandrel, squared, rough-cut stone (appears to be limestone) arch bridge. Two arches incorporate exterior arch rings with keystones and are connected by single center pier with projecting, iron reinforced cutwater.

**Dimensions:** Total length of two spans is 70 feet. The larger span has a length of 42 feet. Bridge has an out-to-out width of 32 feet and a curb-to-curb width of 18 feet. Deck of bridge is approximately 10 feet above stream bed.

**Significant Exterior Features:** Arch rings and keystones. Mill building on south side of bridge built over Chuctanunda Creek along with a truck loading and unloading platform connected to entire south side of bridge.

**Major Alterations and Additions:** A circa 1900 photograph of Chuctanunda Creek looking upstream toward Prospect Street shows a stone arch bridge with stone parapet walls. Bridge probably had parapet walls on both sides, but dates of removal are unknown. Concrete sidewalk and metal pipe handrails added on north side.

**Additional Information:** Bridge is surrounded by the buildings of former S. Sanford and Son Carpet Mill. A detailed examination of the history of this complex may provide additional information on the origins and construction of the Prospect Street bridge.

**Project Information:** The documentation of the Prospect Street Bridge was prepared by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), National Park Service, during the summer of 1987 for the New York State Historic Bridges Recording Project. This project was sponsored by the New York State Department of Transportation and under the supervision of Eric DeLony, Chief & Principal Architect, HAER. This report was written by Andrew Cole and Charles Scott. When citing this report, please credit the Historic American Engineering Record and the authors.

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